Statement-II

Selling prices of Essential Commodities at the end of each month in Kendriya Bhandar

S. No.	Items	April '91	April '92	April '93	April '94
1	Rice Permal	5.50	6.45	6.80	7.80
2	Sugar	9.30	9.40	11.10	14.20
3	Dal Chana	9.00	9.25	10.50	15.10
4	Dal Arhar	13.10	15.00	14.00	15.40
5	Rath 1 kg. pouch	34.95	40.50	32.95	39.00
6	Hafed M/Oil 1 kg./Ltr.	38.00	41.00	35 80	43.00
7	Atta	41.50	45.00	46.00	50.00
8	Salt 1 Kg.	1.85	2.95	3 30	3.30
9	Brook Bond Tea 500 Kgs.	30.90	31.40	41.95	41.00
10	Lux Toilet Soap	4 50	4.80	5.35	5.75

Complaints regarding inadequate functioning of the PDS

7318. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of complaints about the inadequate functioning of the Public Distribution System, particularly in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what corrective measures have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make available essential drugs to the needy poors through this system; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS) is that of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations which include sub-allocation of PDS items to different districts, opening of fair price shops, eligibility criteria, supervision and control over the fair price shops and its functioning. State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act for effective implementation of PDS by taking action against unscrupulous elements indulging in unfair trade practices. Most State Governments/UT Administrations have been taking action under the Essential Commodities Act in this regard. In an operation of such a magnitude involving distribution of million tonnes of PDS commodities few short comings, here and there in the functioning of PDS cannot altogether be ruled out. Regular consultation between the Central and State Governments take place with a view to improve the effective functioning of the PDS.

(c) and (d) State Governments/ UT Administrations were requested

to include on their own additional items of mass consumption taking into account local needs and preference of the consumers. Many State Governments/UT Administrations are reportedly distributing pulses, tea, iodised salt, soaps etc. through fair price shops. There is no proposal to distribute essential drugs to the consumers through the fair price shops as the same may not be administratively feasible.

Compensation under Consumer Protection Act

7319. SHRI AHMD MOHMEDBHAI PATEL :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a significant judgement the Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that if a trader intentionally delays the supply and delivery of goods ordered by a consumer, it will amount to unfair trade practice under Provisions of Consumer Protection Act and the Court has power to compensate in such cases;

(b) if so, whether this judgement of SC has been rigorously imposed in the States;

(c) if so, to what extent imposing of SC order has helped the common people; and

(d) how many traders have so far been punished under the said orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 12-4-94 in Civil Appeal No. 373 of 1994 in the matter of Om Prakash Versus Assistant Engineer, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited and others held, that with effect from 27-9-91, the intentional delay in the delivery of goods amounted to unfair trade practices. The three tier rederessal machinery set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is to keep the above judgement in view while deciding such cases.

(d) The Ministry does not compile such information.

Rise in price of essential commodities

7320. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI G. G. SWELL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent to which prices of essential commodities have gone up since the present Government came to power;

(b) what are the details of such various commodities including sugar;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a marginal difference in the prices of the items sold through fair price shops and the open market;

(d) whether it is also a fact that PDS commodities are diverted to rural and backward areas to be sold in the open market; and

(e) if so, what measures are being taken to prevent the diversion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) and